

Aspiring Teacher Grant – 2012

Fact Sheet



Looking for a challenging and creative career where you can make a real difference?

The *Aspiring Teacher Grant* will provide financial support of \$1500 to up to 25 high achieving secondary students commencing a pre-service teacher education program in Queensland in 2012.

Teaching as a career

Teaching is an important and increasingly popular career choice for people from all walks of life.

Teachers make a significant and long-lasting difference to the lives of their students. It is usually a teacher who inspired us to achieve our best and make the most of our abilities. It is this ability to make a difference in students' lives that makes teaching a wonderful and unique career.

There are many reasons why people choose teaching as a career. These motivations include:

- to make a difference in the lives of young people;
- to combine creativity and intellectual challenge;
- to share their passion for learning; and
- to gain personal fulfilment and a sense of achievement.

Department of Education and Training

The Department of Education and Training is responsible for providing the delivery of quality education and training services to all Queensland students through Education Queensland, Early Childhood Education and Care, and Training Queensland. Education Queensland delivers high quality education to more than 70 per cent of all Queensland school students.

The Department is responsible for approximately:

- 1300 state schools across Queensland;
- 38 000 teachers; and
- 490 000 students.

Large numbers of non-teaching professionals, such as speech language and occupational

therapists and administrative and support staff work collaboratively with our teachers.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for an Aspiring Teacher Grant, applicants must:

- successfully complete Year 12 at a Queensland state or non-state school in 2011;
- obtain an Overall Position (OP) score of 1 to 5 in 2011;
- commence a pre-service teacher education program at a Queensland Higher Education Institution in Semester 1, 2012;
- have not already been offered a scholarship or grant from the Department to support their tertiary studies;
- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or have permanent residency status in Australia.

**Applications close:
9 December 2011**

Application Process

Eligible students will be required to submit:

- a completed *Aspiring Teacher Grant* Application Form;
- evidence of Year 11 and 12 results and outstanding OP score;
- a copy of their offer for entry into a pre-service teacher education program;
- confirmation of their acceptance into the pre-service teacher education program;
- a statement of support from a senior staff member of the school in which Year 12 was completed detailing suitability to become a teacher; and
- a written response to support their application.



Applications will be ranked and the most meritorious applicants selected. Grants will be awarded in accordance with the available quota.

Once the selection process is complete, all applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.

Successful applicants will be provided with a written offer of the grant. Acceptance of offers cannot be deferred.

Selection Process

The Department will offer grants through a merit selection basis determined by the written application. Applicants will be assessed with respect to the following criteria:

- **Academic achievement** – successful completion of Year 12 and gaining an OP score of 1 to 5 in 2011;
- **Offer and commencement** – of study in a pre-service teacher education program in a Queensland Higher Education Institution in 2012;
- **Commitment** – motivation for and commitment to study and teaching.

Grant Funds

The grant funds are to assist with study-related expenses such as text books, a computer and stationary. Grant recipients will receive a one-off payment of \$1 500 during the first semester of study. The funds will be paid as a lump sum after confirmation of enrolment in Semester 1, 2012 is provided.

Recipients who withdraw from the pre-service teacher education program or change their enrolment to a non-education program after payment of the Grant may be required to repay the Department some or all of the funds.

Scholarship recipients are encouraged to seek independent financial advice regarding taxation matters and self-education expenses. Information about the taxation on scholarships and grants is available from the ATO website at <http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content.asp?doc=/content/34815.htm>

Recipients who withdraw from the pre-service teacher education program after payment of the grant may be required to repay the department some or all of the funds.

Grant Conditions

The following conditions apply to the *Aspiring Teacher Grant*:

- recipients must successfully complete at least the first semester of study of the pre-service teacher education program; and
- have not already been offered a scholarship or grant from the Department to support tertiary studies.

Timelines

Key dates for the *Aspiring Teacher Grant* (Semester 1, 2012) are as follows:

Date	Activity
9 Dec, 2011	Grant applications close
23 Jan, 2012	Grant offers made to successful applicants

Frequently Asked Questions

- *I haven't received my OP yet. Can I still apply for the Aspiring Teacher Grant?*

Yes, you can. Send in your application form with all other required documentation, then forward your evidence of your OP as soon as you receive it.

- *If my application for a Grant is not successful, is there any other financial support available to assist me to undertake my study in a pre-service teacher education program?*

Financial assistance may also be available from other sources including your Higher Education Institution.

More Information

Further information about the *Aspiring Teacher Grant* and teaching in state schools is also available from the *Make a difference. Teach* website at www.teach.qld.gov.au

Specific enquiries can be directed to: scholarships@deta.qld.gov.au

Completed applications must be submitted by 2 December 2011 to:

**Aspiring Teacher Grant
Workforce Initiatives, Human Resources
Department of Education and Training
PO Box 15033
City East. QLD. 4002**

Further information: www.teach.qld.gov.au
Enquiries: scholarships@deta.qld.gov.au

